

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
USINT HAVANA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6066

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PORC, PEPR, MORG, CENTO XD
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, AND INDIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER VAJPAYEE'S REMARKS

REF: A) NEW DELHI 9568 (NOTAL) B) ISLAMABAD 5631 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS

CONFERENCE RESPONSE ON PAKISTAN AND THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM), REPORTED REFTEL (A), HAS RECEIVED VERY LIMITED PRESS ATTENTION IN PAKISTAN. ALONE OF ALL DAILIES ON 20 JUNE, RAWALPINDI-BASED NEW TIMES CARRIED STORY, BASING IT ON REPORT FROM BBC'S DELHI CORRESPONDENT. AS RECOUNTED, FONMIN VAJPAYEE OFFERED TO SPONSOR PAKISTAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN NAM IF "PAKISTAN DECIDED TO QUIT CENTO." VAJPAYEE DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS AND THE IDEA OF PAKISTAN'S ATTENDING THE JULY NAM MEET AS AN OBSERVER WITH GOP UN AMBASSADOR AKHUND. AS QUOTED, TEXT SUGGESTS VAJPAYEE HAS NO OBJECTION TO PAKISTAN'S ATTENDING AS AN OBSERVER -- THE PHILIPPINES AND ROMANIA BEING CITED BY HIM AS EXAMPLES OF COUNTRIES ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS BUT DENIED MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE THEY ARE PARTIES TO "BIG POWER PACTS."

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES PICKED UP THE STORY ON 21 JUNE, OMITTING VAJPAYEE OFFER TO SPONSOR IF CENTO MEMBERSHIP FOREGONE. QUOTING "OFFICIAL SOURCES," STORY INSTEAD EMPHASIZED POSSIBILITY OF PAKISTAN'S BEING "INVITED" TO ATTEND NEXT NAM MEETING WITH SAME OBSERVER STATUS AS ROMANIA AND WITH APPROVAL OF "FOUNDER" NAM MEMBERS EGYPT, INDIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: PAKISTAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NAM HAS ALWAYS HAD ELEMENTS ABOUT IT OF A GOP DESIRE TO HAVE ITS CAKE AND EAT IT TOO. ON THE ONE HAND, PAKISTAN HAS PRIZED ITS SECURITY LINKAGES WITH THE US, THROUGH BILATERAL AS WELL AS CENTO CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRANGEMENTS. LIKE PAKISTAN'S LATER RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA, THESE LINKS SERVE PAKISTAN'S QUEST FOR EXTERNAL PATRONS TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE -- THUS TO EASE ITS ANXIETIES VIS-A-VIS INDIA AND THE USSR.

4. HOWEVER, PAKISTAN HAS ALSO LOOKED FOR A WAY SOMEHOW TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE NAM. IN THE EARLY DAYS, WHEN INDIA'S JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WAS ONE OF THE THREE OR FOUR NAM GIANTS, THE GOP FELT ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE NON-ALIGNED FORUM GAVE THE INDIANS AN EXCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD AND TO TAILOR NAM POLICIES TO SUIT INDIAN INTERESTS (VIS-A-VIS PAKISTAN). MORE RECENTLY, PAKISTAN'S INTEREST IN NAM PARTICIPATION HAS CENTERED ON ITS OWN GROWING SENSE OF CONVERGENCE OF INTEREST ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES WITH THE NATIONS OF THE NAM. REPEATEDLY, PAKISTAN'S CENTO TIE HAS BEEN SEEN TO STAND IN THE WAY OF PAKISTANI NAM MEMBERSHIP.

4. THE RECENT REVOLUTION IN KABUL HAS BROUGHT THIS UNRESOLVED DILEMMA TO THE FOREFRONT, AS PAKISTAN HAS BEEN FORCED TO PONDER ANEW HOW BEST TO LOOK TO ITS OWN SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE FACE OF ITS PERCEPTION OF GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE, LIKELY AFGHAN ASSERTIVENESS, APPARENT US DISINTEREST OR INABILITY TO REACT, AND CENTO RECKLESSNESS (SEPTTEL). OBSERVER STATUS IS ONE

SUGGESTION PUT FORWARD AS A WAY OF BRIDGING THE GAP, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE MIXED FEELINGS WITHIN THE NAM ON THIS TOO.

6. SOME PAKISTANIS WILL WELCOME THE VAJPAYEE OFFER OF INDIAN SPONSORSHIP OF PAKISTAN IN THE NAM, ACCEPTING AS A PRICE OF THIS SUPPORT THE NEED TO SHED PAKISTAN'S ASSOCIATION WITH AN ALLIANCE WHICH HAS REPEATEDLY DISAPPOINTED THEM. OTHERS WILL SIMPLY SEE IN THE INDIAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT PAKISTAN IN THE SAME OBSERVER CATEGORY AS ROMANIA (AND POSSIBLY THE PHILIPPINES) A WELCOME SHIFT IN INDIAN POLICY. OTHERS, HOWEVER, WILL SEE IN THE VAJPAYEE

REMARKS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INDO-SOVIET COLLUSION AND WILL BE PUT OFF BY IT AS WELL AS BY THIS REMINDER THAT PAKISTAN NEEDS INDIA'S HELP IN ESTABLISHING ITS NAM CREDENTIALS. THIS MORNING'S PAKISTAN
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TIMES LINE, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS GOP WILL SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE "OBSERVER" ROUTE TO ATTENDANCE AT NAMMEETINGS WHILE IT PLAYS OUT ITS INTERNAL DEBATE ON CENTO MEMBERSHIP (SEPTTEL).
HUMMEL

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